

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 IOE-00 SS-20 NSC-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 OMB-01 TAR-02 SPC-03

LAB-06 OIC-04 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02

DRC-01 /212 W

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P 161500Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1866

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR FAO

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

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FROM USDEL TO FAO CONFERENCE

FOR: MOREY

REF: STATE 222510

1. SUMMARY: FAO SECRETARIAT IN CLOSE CONTACT USDEL IN ATTEMPT TO FIND COMPROMISE FORMULA FOR FAO REPORT TO UN. DRAFT REPORT PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT LIKELY TO BE SUBJECT OF SHARP DISCUSSION IN COMMISSION I DRAFTING GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES 16 NATIONS.

2. FAO SECRETARIAT IN FREQUENT CONTACT USDEL LAST SEVERAL DAYS IN ATTEMPT WORK OUT FORMULA FOR REPORT TO UN WHICH WOULD SATISFY MINIMUM US REQUIREMENTS, PROVIDE FACE-SAVING ARRANGEMENTS FOR UNCTAD AND GROUP OF 77, AND GIVE FAO ESSENTIAL CONTROL IN PREPARATION WFC. FERGUSON ARRIVAL PROVIDED OCCASION FOR REVIEW LATEST PLANS NOVEMBER 15 WITH DDG JACKSON, WEITZ, WALTON, AND AZIZ.

3. USDEL INFORMED THAT SECRETARIAT NOW PLANS SUGGEST CONFERENCE COMMENTS BE CONTAINED IN "REPORT," RATHER THAN "RESOLUTION," WHICH WOULD BE ISSUED NOVEMBER 23 AND HAND-CARRIED BY WEITZ TO NEW YORK. SECRETARIAT BELIEVES REPORT WORDED IN MORE GENERAL TERMS WOULD BE FAR EASIER TO DEAL WITH THAN RESOLUTION REQUIRING MORE PRECISE WORDING.

4. FERGUSON STATED THE USG WAS GRAVELY CONCERNED WITH TWO ISSUES CONTAINED IN FAO PAPER: VIZ. THE LINKAGE OF FAO AND UN AS CO-SPONSORS OF CONFERENCE AND THE INCLUSION OF TRADE MATTERS. HE RECALLED THAT SECSTATE HAD DELIBERATELY CALLED FOR WFC UNDER UN AUSPICES. THIS DONE PARTLY TO OPEN WAY FOR SOV PARTICIPATION WHICH MIGHT WELL BE FORECLOSED BY JOINT AUSPICES. SECONDLY, LINKAGE WOULD SURELY TRIGGER DEMAND IN RESUMED ECOSOC BY ALGIERS GROUP TO LINK UNCTAD - WHICH MIGHT RESULT TRADE CONFERENCE. FERGUSON CALLED ATTENTION TO FACT THAT JOINING AUSPICES FORMULA MIGHT ALSO RAISE FOR SYG CERTAIN PROTOCOL PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD INTRODUCE NEEDLESS ADDITIONAL ISSUE. HE SUGGESTED THAT SOLUTION MIGHT LIE IN FINDING FORMULA ALONG LINES OF FUNCTIONS TO BE PERFORMED BY FAO AND SYG, THUS IN DESCRIPTION OF FUNCTIONS FAO MIGHT GET WHAT IT WANTS - EMPHASIS ON ITS CENTRAL ROLE - WITHOUT CREATING PROBLEMS RAISED BY JOINT AUSPICES FORMULA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. JACKSON COMMENTED THAT PRINCIPAL PROCEDURAL PROBLEM FORESEEN BY SECRETARIAT IS "POLITICAL" AND PRACTICAL QUESTION OF FAO ROLE. HE SAID FAO DOES NOT SEEK SPONSORSHIP ROLE, BUT MUST BE ASSURED OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL IN ORDER WFC BE STAGED IN SHORT TIME AVAILABLE. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, JACKSON AGREED THAT SOME LANGUAGE SHORT OF "JOINT ORGANIZATION BY UN AND FAO" MIGHT BE ADEQUATE AND SAID SECRETARIAT WILL SHOW USDEL REVISED LANGUAGE.

PRESENCE DE SEYNES AND OTHER UN OFFICIALS NEXT WEEK MAY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY REACH UNDERSTANDING WITH UN.

6. SECRETARIAT DOES NOT BELIEVE IT POLITICALLY FEASIBLE AVOID MENTION OF UNCTAD IN REPORT. JACKSON OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT HE SAW NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN US AND SECRETARIAT POSITION ON TREATMENT OF TRADE ISSUES IN WFC; WE ARE BOTH ANXIOUS TO AVOID THEM. QUESTION WAS "HOW TO SKATE ON THIN ICE." SOLUTION SUGGESTED WAS TO MAKE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PARTICIPATION UNCTAD AND SEVERAL OTHER UN AGENCIES IN GENERAL TERMS WHICH WOULD NOT IMPLY THAT TRADE AND OTHER ISSUES WOULD BE CENTRAL THEMES OF WFC.

7. FROM TENOR OF DISCUSSIONS IT APPEARS THAT FAO MAY ANTICIPATE PUTTING FORWARD TO DELS A FORMULA ON TRADE ISSUES ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: (A) INCLUDE AGENDA ITEM ON TRADE MATTERS WHICH STRICTLY ANCILLARY TO OTHER ITEMS ON AGENDA (OR ALTERNATIVELY, TRADE MATTERS WHICH ARISE OUT OF REMAINDER OF AGENDA), AND (B) WFC WOULD REPORT SUCH TRADE DISCUSSIONS TO APPROPRIATE UN BODIES, INCLUDING GATT.

8. COMMENT: PLENARY STATEMENTS AND INFORMAL COMMENTS INDICATE THAT MOST OTHER DC DELS WILL JOIN US IN TAKING FIRM LINE AGAINST WFC INVOLVEMENT IN TRADE ISSUES. IN WRITING DRAFT REPORT, HOWEVER, SECRETARIAT OBVIOUSLY ANTICIPATING NEED TO DEAL WITH LDC VIEWS IN TERMS REPRESENTING ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE FORMULA. ISSUE LIKELY BE JOINED IN COMMISSION I DRAFTING GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES FOLLOWING 16 COUNTRIES: ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, EGYPT, GERMANY, GHANA, HUNGARY, INDIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, MEXICO, PAKISTAN, SWITZERLAND, AND US. VOLPE

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